Additional Track between Ahmedabad and Mumbai

2077. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide an additional track between Ahemdabad and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the time frame envisaged for completion of the same; and

(d) the budgetary provision made and proposed for completion of the said project in the proposed time frame ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (d) A survey for construction of 3rd line between Virar and Ahmedabad has already been completed. The work of construction of 3rd line between Surat and Kosamba has been taken up as Phase-I work. An outlay of Rs. 2 Cr. has been provided in the Budget 2001-02 to progress the works planned during the year. No time frame has been fixed for completion of this work. It would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Work on construction of 5th line between Santacruz and Borivali and 3rd and 4th lines between Borivali and Virar are also in progress. An outlay of Rs. 2 Cr. and 40 Cr. respectively has been allotted to these works. Work on 5th line between Santacruz and Borivali is expected to be completed by March, 2002. Work on 3rd and 4th lines between Borivali and Virar will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Wagon Orders

2078. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether wagon orders for this year have been placed on wagon manufacturing PSUs in September, 2001 only;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in placement of orders;

(c) if not, the actual date of placement of orders;

(d) whether any compensation has been sought from Railways for financial loss caused to these companies, because of the delay in placement of orders; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) Ordering was withheld due to detection of use of mild steel in place of specified corten steel in manufacturing of wagons by several manufacturing units which necessitated the comprehensive checks on all the wagon manufacturers in order to assess the quantum and magnitude of the problems. Wagon orders have been released on 5-10-2001 on various Wagon Builders by taking suitable undertaking and after taking legal opinion in the matter. Delay in placement of order was primarily due to quality problems noticed in manufacturing of wagons.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) to (c) above.

Task Force on Sanitation in the Railways

†2079. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to constitute a three-tier task force for sanitation in the railways;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) to (c) there is no proposal to constitute a three tier task force on cleanliness on Indian Railways. However, multi-disciplinary Service Improvement Groups (SIGs) are functioning at the three tier levels vis. station, division and zonal railway levels to monitor the upkeep and maintenance of various passenger amenities including cleanliness. Cleanliness being a continuous process, all endeavours are made by the railways to improve the standard of cleanliness in railway premises and on trains. The various steps taken include strengthening of monitoring and supervision system besides introduction of 'Pay & Use' scheme of toilets, emphasis on mechanised cleaning processes, provision of washable aprons & additional dustbins, regular removal of garbage, spraying of insecticides, repairs to drains, montly intensive cleaning of coaches, deployment of travelling safaiwalas on selected trains and education of public through various media. A fillip has been given by launching special drives involving senior officers.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.